



King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Director's Office
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson St, Suite 5700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

April 20, 2022

Nikki Fields
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
1111 Israel Road SW
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Subject: RCO Grant Application #22-1569
Icy Creek Ridge Phase 2 Acquisition in King County

Dear Ms. Fields:

Thank you for your letter to King County Council dated April 18, 2022, informing our agency that Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is applying for a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to acquire the Icy Creek Ridge properties adjacent to Green River Gorge in King County. In 2020, King County strongly supported phase 1 of this acquisition project, and we reiterate that support for phase 2 with this letter.

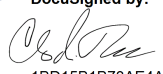
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (KC DNRP) strongly supports the grant application for this acquisition. Acquiring the Icy Creek properties has been a long-term priority for Washington State Parks and KC DNRP, and is supported by our partners including the Green River Coalition and Washington Department of Natural Resources. This property is also an acquisition priority through King County's Land Conservation Initiative, which seeks to preserve important natural lands and trails.

If preserved, the Icy Creek Ridge parcels would facilitate the eventual development of a regional backcountry trail in an area of the county that does not have many passive trail hiking opportunities. As the regional population grows and communities continue to seek outdoor spaces to safely gather during the pandemic, there is an increasing need for outdoor recreation spaces and protection of valuable landscapes. In addition, protecting the Icy Creek properties will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and expand the network of existing public lands in this area. The Green River Gorge is a spectacular natural feature, which deserves expanded protection.

Nikki Fields
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
April 20, 2022
2 | Page

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important acquisition. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 206.477.4550 or email christie.true@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

1BD15B1B73AE4A0...

Christie True
Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks



Department of Natural Resources

July 19th, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Grant Review Committee:

This letter serves as a letter of support for the Washington State Parks Green River Gorge – Icy Creek Ridge Project for Phase 2 (22-1569). The Green River College Department of Natural Resources previously supported the initial application (20-1555) and wish to continue in collaborating with State Parks and associated organizations in their efforts of this project.

Green River College has 155 Natural Resources students in training each year and as part of the Bachelor of Applied Science degree path, students must complete Capstone projects. We were in discussion with WA State Parks and fully support their efforts to piece together land along the southern rim of the Green River Gorge. This acquisition can serve as a closer step in allowing our original collaborations to move forward on protected parcels for trail work and protected parcels of habitat corridors. Students that are specializing in Recreation Management, Wildlife, and Stream Restoration are eager to collaborate with WA State Parks on necessary projects such as trail mapping, recreation management planning, trail installation and maintenance, hazard tree abatement and research on new green spaces. This unique collaboration will further students' applied knowledge and skillsets while propelling them forward into their careers. Furthermore, this unique collaboration supports the efforts on the ground to bring forth usable trails along protected spaces that support critical conservation but still support recreation by users of WA State Parks.

The Green River Colleges Natural Resources Department is committed to help with necessary work to make this project successful. We look forward to the continued opportunity to support WA State Parks in this endeavor and are excited for this project to continue forward.

Sincerely,

Monica Paulson Priebe, PhD, Department Head
Green River College
Natural Resources Department
253-316-2356
mpriebe@greenriver.edu



July 19, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Green River Coalition strongly supports Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Green River Gorge – Icy Creek (22-1569) application for Phase 2, acquisition these critical parcels.

Since 1969, under the guidance of Wolf Bauer, and former Governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry, the State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area efforts to acquire critical lands associated with the Green River Gorge. For well over 20-years, Green River Coalition has collaborated with Washington State Parks and King County on acquisition, protection and enhancement of these lands. This includes making a priority of acquisition of the Icy Creek parcels since the inception of our organization

It is our understanding that Phase 2, of this project will acquire around 7-parcels that make up 52-acres, of the 105 acres of the total acquisition area. This fills in a critical gap in public ownership of lands on the south side of the gorge, between current State Parks lands, and King County Parks Bass Lake Complex Natural Area, which since writing a support letter for Phase 1, has grown to more than 700-acres. These acquisitions will expand public land, wildlife corridors, landscape level habitat, and will help complete major regional trail systems.

In addition, the Icy Creek parcels contain an old paleo-channel that drains water from the uplands above the Green River Gorge. This water, mostly traveling underground, is expressed as surface water in the relatively short reach known as Icy Creek. This creek serves a critical function of providing clean, very cold water that brings down the temperature of the river itself. Thus these parcels are protecting a water source, that makes the confluence of Icy Creek and Green River as well as a significant distance downstream, ideal habitat for Chinook salmon and Bull Trout, endangered species that require cold water.

Since 2013, the coalition has worked on habitat restoration in this reach of the Green River. This has included receiving local government and private grants to fund restoration, doing fund raising and directing work from our intern program at Green River College to this area. We are excited to see these additional acquisitions move forward, and continuing the vision that Wolf Bauer brought to this part of Green River in the 1960's.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Wingard".

Greg Wingard
President

July 19, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Grant Review Committee Members:

This letter is written to show our support of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge Phase2 (22-1569)*- grant application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

I am the chair of FOBL and have been the Ambassador for this site since 2001. The complex is situated along the Green River Gorge and is an important site ecologically for fresh water recharge, water purification and cold water to the Green River for critical salmon habitat.

FOBL works with neighbors, city, state and county governments as well as a 501c3 called the Enumclaw Plateau Community Association (EPCA). We also work directly with Natural Resource Students from Green River College increasing their knowledge of restoration ecology. This is a critical site to continue this important work.

We have so many pressures threatening our rural life with a possible Regional Airport, Multiple Gravel Mine operations, and increasing homes in surrounding cities of Black Diamond, Enumclaw and Auburn. This land represents the last of the green spaces left in King County.

Green River Gorge Conservation Area was established in 1969. This grant project will continue a multi decade effort by acquiring these parcels close to the Bass Lake Complex.

This landowner is currently a **willing seller** so there is no time to waste to accomplish this important acquisition before it is too late or market conditions hinder the success of this purchase.

Sincerely,

Bernie McKinney (360)825-1000 email: b.mckinney@comcast.net

Bass Lake Ambassador – Friends of Bass Lake Chair/ VP Green River Coalition/Treasurer at Enumclaw Plateau Community Association.

From: [Ryan Rodenberg](#)
To: [Fields, Nikki \(PARKS\)](#)
Subject: Icy Creek Ridge grant support - Green River Gorge Rim Trail
Date: Sunday, June 12, 2022 6:01:55 AM

External Email

Hello Nikki....

This in regards to and in support of:

Icy Creek Ridge grant support - Green River Gorge Rim Trail

I live on the south rim of the green and frequently explore the area. I also am a training officer for Enumclaw Fire and we regularly train on the green and surrounding areas.

I learn more about the area each time I get on my bike!!!

I am in support of this work 100%.

This a beautiful area, the Green River is my home and I believe trails help people stay sane.

Thanks for considering!

Ryan Rodenberg
24618 SE 380th Street
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Sent from my iPhone

July 19, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I was thrilled to get an updated email today regarding the Green River - Icy Creek Trail properties acquisition advancing to a new phase of action. I wish to continue to provide support and encouragement in moving forward. I'm of an age (69) that the sooner this happens the more I can enjoy and share it with family and friends. The concept of the contiguous trail is so very close now! Get every acre you can!

I am no longer a member of the local School Board, but I do stay connected enough to know what an amazing resource this will be. My energies are focused with our Enumclaw Plateau Community Association and our local Rotary Club – both groups that value and are working to improve habitat in our area. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss how Rotary might help with some Peace Poles, etc. along the trail.

Best Regards,

Nancy A. Merrill
28308 SE 392nd St.
Enumclaw, WA 98022
nancysmerrill@gmail.com
253-740-2536

7/19/2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

PO Box 40917,

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

I, James Montgomery, strongly support the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge—Icy Creek Ridge Phase 2 (20-1569)*- application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category.

This project is the second phase of an acquisition of 16 parcels, totaling approximately 105 acres, in King County near Black Diamond. The number of parcels acquired will depend on appraised value, but it is likely that this phase can purchase 7 parcels totaling approximately 52 acres. The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 (RCW 79A.05.705) and directed the State Parks and Recreation Commission to begin acquiring property along the river. The State Parks plans for the Conservation Area include a trail along the south rim of the gorge, from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park to Flaming Geyser State Park. The parcels in Icy Creek Ridge are some of the last needed before trail development will be possible. The current landowner has platted the area into 14 building sites and has already developed roads for future residential development. Purchase of these parcels will prevent this development, and the existing road will provide good access for a future trailhead for the South Rim Trail. This acquisition will also protect habitat corridors between the Green River and properties in King County's Bass Lake Complex to the south. These parcels are within the designated long-term park boundary, and the landowner is a willing seller. This acquisition will make significant progress toward realizing the vision State Parks has been pursuing for over 50 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this acquisition that will enhance the Conservation Area and the nearby communities.

Sincerely,

James Montgomery